



## Filing Receipt

**Received - 2022-01-10 03:34:18 PM**  
**Control Number - 51841**  
**ItemNumber - 38**



Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 N. Congress Ave.  
PO Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

January 5th, 2022

Dear Public Utility Commissioners:

The Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association (TexMEP) would like to submit this letter expressing our support for the comments filed by the Texas legal Services Center and others regarding the Emergency Operations Plans rule, Control 51841.

Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association (TexMEP) is a non-profit state association representing home medical equipment (HME)/durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies providers operating in Texas. Our members provide home medical equipment including home oxygen therapy, home ventilators, complex rehabilitation technology, specialty nutrition, and other medically necessary equipment and supplies to patients in the home. Most of our members provide these services to individuals covered by Medicare, private insurance carrier or Texas Medicaid, or for all intents and purposes, the "Managed Care Organization" (MCO) for the county; therefore, the funding for the equipment provided by our members generally comes from these sources.

Our members, the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Provider, have direct contact with its patients on a quarterly or monthly basis, especially with the families or individuals who rely on enteral feeding or are on life sustaining equipment, such as ventilators or oxygen equipment; therefore, we believe our members are more knowledgeable than most providers in the matters of how the loss of electricity for these patients create dangerous conditions in the homes and cause a state of panic and fear for anyone who relies on electricity for their next breath.

All of our members were affected negatively by the Winter Storm of 2021. Most of our members lost revenue and had additional expenses due to the demands of extra batteries for ventilators, backup equipment and other equipment that none of them were reimbursed through the Medicaid/Medicare system. The Industry can not take it upon our shoulders the next time and we are requesting in order to protect the lives of our Texans who are dependent on DME, the PUC must utilize its leadership to coordinate a disaster response plan within the State to ensure that lives are not lost the next time this happens.

Please accept this letter as our support, the Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association (TexMEP) of the comments filed by the Texas legal Services Center and others regarding the Emergency Operations Plans rule.

If there are any questions or need for additional information, please call me at 713-856-9930 or email at [mgowen@angelmedicalsupply.com](mailto:mgowen@angelmedicalsupply.com).

Mark Gowen,  
Secretary/Treasurer